

09 APR 2001

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JCT 174
OFFICE OF THE
PATENT & TRADEMARK

In re Application of:

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Washington, D.C.

April 9, 2001

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

[X] 1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed:

(Check one of the boxes A-D)

[] A. within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.

☒ B. before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

☐ C. after (A) and (B) above, but before final rejection or allowance, and Applicants have made the necessary certification (box "i" below) or paid the necessary fee (box "ii" below).

☐ i. Counsel certifies that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either

☐ (a) first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

☐ (b) not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

☐ ii. Credit Card Payment Form, PTO-2038, is attached authorizing payment of the fee set forth in §1.17(p), presently believed to be \$180.

☐ D. after (A), (B) and (C) above, but before payment of the issue fee: Applicant(s) petitions under 37 CFR §1.97(d) for consideration of this IDS. A Credit Card Payment Form, PTO-2038, is attached authorizing payment of the fee set forth in §1.17(i), presently believed to be \$130 is enclosed. Counsel certifies that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either

☐ (a) first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

☐ (b) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

☒ 2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., form PTO-1449) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached.

☐ A. Document(s) _____ is (are) deemed substantially cumulative to document(s) _____, and, in accordance with §1.98(c), only a copy of each of the latter documents is enclosed.

☐ B. Certain documents were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the following prior application(s), which are relied upon under 35 U.S.C. 120:

Applicant(s) identifies these documents by attaching hereto copies of the forms PTO-892 and PTO-1449 from the files of the prior application(s) or a fresh PTO-1449 listing these documents, and request that they be considered and made of record in accordance with §1.98(d). Per 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of these documents need not be filed in this application.

☐ 3. Document(s) _____ is (are) not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(c), Applicant(s) states:

☐ An English translation of each document _____ (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.

☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ is found in the attached _____ search report (see reply to Comment 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ is set forth as follows:

(insert concise explanation of relevance)

☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ can be found on page(s) _____ of the specification.

☐ A concise explanation of document(s) _____ can be found on the attached sheet.

☒ 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

☐ 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

6. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as

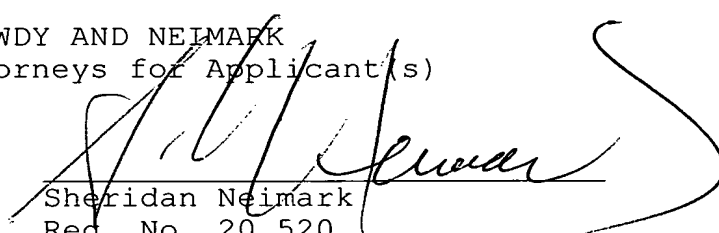


defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By:


Sheridan Neimark
Reg. No. 20,520

624 Ninth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20001-5303
Telephone: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile: (202) 737-3528
SN:pr